

ACT No. III OF 1903.

PASSED BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

*(Received the assent of the Governor General on the 13th
March, 1903.)*

An Act to make better provision for facilitating and regulating the supply and use of electrical energy for lighting and other purposes.

WHEREAS it is expedient to make better provision for facilitating and regulating the supply and use of electrical energy for lighting and other purposes ;
It is hereby enacted as follows :—

PART I.

PRELIMINARY.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Indian Electricity Act, 1903. Short title,
extent and
commence-
ment.

(2) It extends to the whole of British India, inclusive of British Baluchistan and the Santhal Parganas ; and

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Governor General in Council may, by notification in the Gazette of India, direct in this behalf.

2. In this Act, expressions defined in the Indian Definitions.
XIII of 1885. Telegraph Act, 1885, have the meanings assigned to them in that Act, and, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(a) “aërial line” means any electric supply-line which is placed above ground and in the open air :

(b) the expression “area of supply” means the area within which alone a licensee is for the time being authorized to supply energy :

(c) consumer

(Part I.—Preliminary.—Section 2.)

- (c) “consumer” means any person supplied, or entitled to be supplied, with energy by a licensee :
- (d) the expression “consumer’s terminals” means the ends of the electric lines situate upon any consumer’s premises and belonging to him, at which the supply of energy is delivered from the service lines :
- (e) “daily fine” means a fine for each day on which an offence is continued after conviction therefor :
- (f) “distributing main” means the portion of any main which is used for transmitting energy to service lines for the purposes of general supply :
- (g) “electric supply-line” means a wire, conductor or other means used for conveying, transmitting or distributing energy for any purpose, together with any casing, coating, covering, tube, pipe or insulator enclosing, surrounding or supporting the same or any part thereof or any apparatus connected therewith for the purpose of so conveying, transmitting or distributing such energy :
- (h) “electrical power” means the rate per unit of time at which energy is supplied :
- (i) “energy” means electrical energy expended at a rate greater than twenty-five watts :
- (j) “general supply” means the general supply of energy to ordinary consumers, and includes, in the absence of a special agreement to the contrary with the Government or with a local authority, the general supply of energy for public lamps, but does not include the supply of energy to particular consumers under special agreements :
- (k) “licensee” means any person licensed under Part II to supply energy :
- (l) “main”

(Part II.—Supply of Energy to the Public.—Section 3.)

- (l) "main" means any electric supply-line which is laid by a licensee in any street and through which energy may be supplied, or is intended to be supplied, by the licensee for the purpose of general supply :
- (m) "plan" includes a section :
- (n) "purpose" includes any purpose except the transmission of a message :
- (o) "service line" means any electric supply-line through which energy may be supplied, or is intended to be supplied, by a licensee, to a consumer either from a main or directly from the licensee's premises :
- (p) "street" includes any way, road, lane, square, court, alley, passage or open space, whether a thoroughfare or not, over which the public have a right of way, and also the roadway and footway over any public bridge or causeway : and
- (q) the expression "works" includes electric supply-lines and any buildings, machinery or apparatus required to supply energy and to carry into effect the objects of a licensee.

PART II.

SUPPLY OF ENERGY TO THE PUBLIC.

3. (1) No person shall supply energy for electric traction or to the public for any purpose except under, and in accordance with the terms and conditions of, a license granted by the Local Government under this Part :

Supply of energy for traction or to the public for any purpose to be licensed.

Provided that nothing in this section shall apply to any railway or tramway subject to the provisions of the Indian Railways Act, 1890.

IX of 1890.

(2) Where any difference or dispute arises as to whether energy is or is not supplied or to be supplied for